

**DRUG SCREENING FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR  
NEEDY FAMILIES RECIPIENTS**

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Brad R. Wilson**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies the Employment Support Act by requiring an applicant who otherwise qualifies for cash assistance under Utah's Family Employment Program to complete a written drug screening questionnaire and meet other requirements in order to receive cash assistance under the program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ requires a parent who otherwise qualifies for cash assistance under Utah's Family Employment Program to complete a written questionnaire designed to determine the likelihood of the parent having a substance use disorder;
- ▶ requires an applicant to submit to a drug test if the written questionnaire indicates a reasonable likelihood that the applicant has a substance use disorder;
- ▶ requires an applicant who tests positive for a controlled substance to enter into and follow an employment plan that includes the following to continue to receive cash assistance under the Family Employment Program:
  - receiving treatment for a substance use disorder; and
  - testing negative on follow-up drug tests for a controlled substance;
- ▶ provides that refusing to take a drug test, failing a drug test, not entering into an employment plan, or failing to successfully follow an employment plan's substance



28 use disorder treatment requirements, makes an applicant ineligible for cash assistance under the  
29 Family Employment Program and for reapplication for cash assistance:

- 30 • for 90 days after a first occurrence within one year; or
- 31 • for one year after a second occurrence within one year; and
- 32 ▶ makes technical changes.

33 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

34 None

35 **Other Special Clauses:**

36 None

37 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

38 AMENDS:

39 **35A-3-302**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 55

40 **35A-3-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 297

41 ENACTS:

42 **35A-3-304.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



44 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

45 Section 1. Section **35A-3-302** is amended to read:

46 **35A-3-302. Eligibility requirements.**

47 (1) The program of cash assistance provided under this part is known as the Family  
48 Employment Program.

49 (2) (a) The division shall submit a state plan to the Secretary of the United States  
50 Department of Health and Human Services to obtain federal funding under the Temporary  
51 Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant.

52 (b) The division shall make the plan consistent with this part and federal law.

53 (c) If a discrepancy arises between a provision of the state plan and this part, this part  
54 supersedes the provision in the state plan.

55 (3) The services and supports under this part are for both one-parent and two-parent  
56 families.

57 (4) To be eligible for cash assistance under this part, a family shall:

- 58 (a) have at least one minor dependent child; or

59 (b) have a parent who is in the third trimester of a pregnancy.

60 (5) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
61 department shall make rules for eligibility and the amount of cash assistance a family is eligible  
62 to receive under this part based on:

63 (a) family size;

64 (b) family income;

65 (c) income disregards; [~~and~~]

66 (d) other relevant factors[-]; and

67 (e) if the applicant has met the eligibility requirements under Subsections (5)(a)  
68 through (d), the assessment and other requirements described in Sections 35A-3-304 and  
69 35A-3-304.5.

70 (6) The division shall disregard money on deposit in an Individual Development  
71 Account established under Section 35A-3-312 in determining eligibility.

72 (7) The department shall provide for an appeal of a determination of eligibility in  
73 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act.

74 (8) (a) The department shall make a report to either the Legislature's Executive  
75 Appropriations Committee or the Commerce and Workforce Services Appropriations  
76 Subcommittee on any proposed rule change made under Subsection (5) that would modify the  
77 eligibility requirements or the amount of cash assistance a family would be eligible to receive.

78 (b) The department shall submit the report prior to implementing the proposed rule  
79 change and the report shall include:

80 (i) a description of the department's current practice or policy that it is proposing to  
81 change;

82 (ii) an explanation of why the department is proposing the change;

83 (iii) the effect of an increase or decrease in cash benefits on families; and

84 (iv) the fiscal impact of the proposed change.

85 (c) The department may use the Notice of Proposed Rule Amendment form filed with  
86 the Division of Administrative Rules as its report so long as the notice contains all the  
87 information required under Subsection (8)(b).

88 Section 2. Section **35A-3-304** is amended to read:

89 **35A-3-304. Assessment -- Participation requirements and limitations -- Mentors.**

90 (1) (a) Within 20 business days of the date of enrollment, a parent client shall:  
91 (i) be assigned an employment counselor; and  
92 (ii) complete an assessment provided by the division regarding the parent client's:  
93 (A) family circumstances;  
94 (B) education;  
95 (C) work history;  
96 (D) skills; [~~and~~]  
97 (E) ability to become self-sufficient[-]; and  
98 (F) likelihood of a substance use disorder involving the misuse of a controlled  
99 substance.

100 (b) The assessment provided under Subsection (1)(a)(ii) shall include:  
101 (i) a survey to be completed by the parent client with the assistance of the division[-];  
102 and  
103 (ii) a written questionnaire to be completed by the parent client designed to accurately  
104 determine the likelihood of the parent client having a substance use disorder involving the  
105 misuse of a controlled substance.

106 (c) In addition to the other requirements of this part, if the results of the written  
107 questionnaire taken by a parent client indicate a reasonable likelihood that the parent client has  
108 a substance use disorder involving the misuse of a controlled substance, the parent client may  
109 only receive cash assistance provided under this part in accordance with the additional  
110 requirements of Section 35A-3-304.5.

111 (2) (a) Within 15 business days of a parent client completing an assessment, the  
112 division and the parent client shall enter into an employment plan.

113 (b) The employment plan shall have a target date for entry into employment.  
114 (c) The division shall provide a copy of the employment plan to the parent client.  
115 (d) As to the parent client, the plan may include:  
116 (i) job searching requirements;  
117 (ii) if the parent client does not have a high school diploma, participation in an  
118 educational program to obtain a high school diploma, or its equivalent;  
119 (iii) education or training necessary to obtain employment;  
120 (iv) a combination of work and education or training;

121 (v) assisting the Office of Recovery Services in good faith to:

122 (A) establish the paternity of a minor child; and

123 (B) establish or enforce a child support order~~[; and]~~.

124 [~~(vi) if the parent client is a drug dependent person as defined in Section 58-37-2,~~  
125 ~~participation in available treatment for drug dependency and progress toward overcoming that~~  
126 ~~dependency.]~~

127 (e) If the parent client tests positive for the unlawful use of a controlled substance after  
128 taking a drug test under Section 35A-3-304.5, the employment plan shall include an agreement  
129 by the parent client to participate in treatment for a substance use disorder and meet the other  
130 requirements of Section 35A-3-304.5.

131 [~~(e)] (f) As to the division, the plan may include:~~

132 (i) providing cash and other types of public and employment assistance, including child  
133 care;

134 (ii) assisting the parent client to obtain education or training necessary for employment;

135 (iii) assisting the parent client to set up and follow a household budget; and

136 (iv) assisting the parent client to obtain employment.

137 [~~(f)] (g) The division may amend the employment plan to reflect new information or  
138 changed circumstances.~~

139 [~~(g)] (h) If immediate employment is an activity contained in the employment plan the  
140 parent client shall:~~

141 (i) promptly commence a search for a specified number of hours each week for  
142 employment; and

143 (ii) regularly submit a report to the division on:

144 (A) how time was spent in search for a job;

145 (B) the number of job applications completed;

146 (C) the interviews attended;

147 (D) the offers of employment extended; and

148 (E) other related information required by the division.

149 [~~(h)] (i) (i) If full-time education or training to secure employment is an activity  
150 contained in an employment plan, the parent client shall promptly undertake a full-time  
151 education or training program.~~

152 (ii) The employment plan may describe courses, education or training goals, and  
153 classroom hours.

154 ~~(i)~~ (j) (i) As a condition of receiving cash assistance under this part, a parent client  
155 shall agree to make a good faith effort to comply with the employment plan.

156 (ii) If a parent client consistently fails to show good faith in complying with the  
157 employment plan, the division may seek under Subsection (2)(i)(iii) to terminate all or part of  
158 the cash assistance services provided under this part.

159 (iii) The division shall establish a process to reconcile disputes between a client and the  
160 division as to whether:

161 (A) the parent client has made a good faith effort to comply with the employment plan;

162 or

163 (B) the division has complied with the employment plan.

164 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a parent client's participation in  
165 education or training beyond that required to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent is  
166 limited to the lesser of:

167 (i) 24 months; or

168 (ii) the completion of the education and training requirements of the employment plan.

169 (b) A parent client may participate in education or training for up to six months beyond  
170 the 24-month limit of Subsection (3)(a)(i) if:

171 (i) the parent client is employed for 80 or more hours a month; and

172 (ii) the extension is for good cause shown and approved by the director.

173 (c) A parent client who receives an extension under Subsection (3)(b) remains subject  
174 to Subsection (4).

175 (4) (a) A parent client with a high school diploma or equivalent who has received 24  
176 months of education or training shall participate in full-time work activities.

177 (b) The 24 months need not be continuous and the department may define "full-time  
178 work activities" by rule.

179 (5) As a condition for receiving cash assistance on behalf of a minor child under this  
180 part, the minor child shall be:

181 (a) enrolled in and attending school in compliance with Sections 53A-11-101.5 and  
182 53A-11-101.7; or

183 (b) exempt from school attendance under Section 53A-11-102.

184 (6) This section does not apply to a person who has received diversion assistance under  
185 Section 35A-3-303.

186 (7) (a) The division shall recruit and train volunteers to serve as mentors for parent  
187 clients.

188 (b) A mentor may advocate on behalf of a parent client and help a parent client:

189 (i) develop life skills;

190 (ii) implement an employment plan; or

191 (iii) obtain services and supports from:

192 (A) the volunteer mentor;

193 (B) the division; or

194 (C) civic organizations.

195 Section 3. Section **35A-3-304.5** is enacted to read:

196 **35A-3-304.5. Drug testing requirements.**

197 (1) If the results of a questionnaire described in Subsection 35A-3-304(1) indicate a  
198 reasonable likelihood that a parent client may have a substance use disorder involving the  
199 misuse of a controlled substance, the division shall require the parent client to take a drug test  
200 at the division's expense in order to continue to receive cash assistance under this part.

201 (2) If a parent client refuses to take a drug test required under Subsection (1), the  
202 department shall terminate cash assistance under this part and the parent client may not reapply  
203 for cash assistance under this part for:

204 (a) 90 days after a first refusal to take a drug test within one year; or

205 (b) one year after a second refusal to take a drug test within one year.

206 (3) A drug test given under this section shall be administered with due regard to the  
207 privacy and dignity of the person being tested.

208 (4) Before taking a drug test under this section, a parent client may advise the person  
209 administering the test regarding any prescription or over-the-counter medication the parent  
210 client is taking.

211 (5) The result of a drug test given under this section is a private record in accordance  
212 with Section 63G-2-302 and disclosure to a third party is prohibited except as provided under  
213 Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act.

214 (6) If a parent client tests negative for the unlawful use of a controlled substance after  
215 taking a drug test under Subsection (1), the parent client remains eligible for cash assistance,  
216 subject to the other eligibility requirements of this part.

217 (7) If a parent client tests positive for the unlawful use of a controlled substance after  
218 taking a drug test under Subsection (1), the parent client:

219 (a) shall be given a list of approved substance use disorder treatment providers that are  
220 available in the area in which the individual resides; and

221 (b) may continue to receive benefits if the parent client enters into and follows the  
222 requirements of an employment plan, including:

223 (i) receiving treatment, at the division's expense, from an approved substance use  
224 disorder treatment provider for at least 60 days;

225 (ii) testing negative for the unlawful use of a controlled substance:

226 (A) in each subsequent drug test required by division rule during treatment; and

227 (B) in an additional drug test given at the conclusion of treatment; and

228 (iii) meeting the other requirements of receiving cash assistance under this part.

229 (8) If a parent client declines to enter into an employment plan required by Subsection  
230 (7), or if the parent client enters into, but fails to meet, a requirement of an employment plan  
231 under Subsection (7), including if the parent client refuses to take a drug test required by the  
232 employment plan or tests positive for the unlawful use of a controlled substance in a drug test  
233 required by the employment plan, the department shall terminate cash assistance under this part  
234 and the parent client may not reapply for cash assistance under this part for:

235 (a) except as provided in Subsection (8)(b), 90 days after the day on which the  
236 department determines, under this Subsection (8), that the parent client is no longer eligible for  
237 cash assistance; or

238 (b) one year after the day on which the department determines, under this Subsection  
239 (8), that the parent client is no longer eligible for cash assistance, if the department has  
240 previously determined on at least one other occasion in the past year that the parent client is no  
241 longer eligible for cash assistance under this Subsection (8).



**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-10-12 12:29 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**